

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 1E Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program

Stormwater Flood Management Grant, Round 1, 2010-2011

Applicant Town of Truckee

Amount Requested \$5,250,000

Proposal Title Trout Creek
Restoration (Reaches 4 & 5)

Total Proposal Cost \$10,5000,000

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The main project's intent is to minimize urban flooding in Trout Creek, while reducing the risk of urban flooding associated with the 100-year design flood event, protecting property and resources from bank failure. Secondary benefits are to effectively integrate water management with land use planning and restore Trout Creek to as natural habitat as reasonably possible, enhance fish habitat, create additional riparian areas, and bring creek awareness into the community creating stewardship.

PROPOSAL SCORE

Criteria	Score/ Max. Possible	Criteria	Score/ Max. Possible
Work Plan	6/15	Economic Analysis – Flood Damage Reduction and Water Supply Benefits	6/12
Budget	2/5	Water Quality and Other Expected Benefits	9/12
Schedule	1/5	Program Preferences	6/10
Monitoring, Assessment, and Performance Measures	2/5		
Total Score (max. possible = 64)			32

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Work Plan

The criterion is marginally addressed and documentation is incomplete and insufficient. The Work Plan does not include a sufficient description of the project and only a limited discussion of the Project's status. While maps of the watershed are included, a map of the project location is not included in the application. The task section of the Work Plan does not fully explain what the Project is constructing. For example, the four subtasks under Construction include only a one sentence description. These subtask descriptions lack sufficient detail such as the length of each reach to be restored and methodology of restoration to be used. There is no discussion of the actual activities that would occur under these subtasks. With insufficient task descriptions, it is difficult to determine if the tasks collectively implement the Project. Appropriate submittals are included as deliverables. Preliminary Design Reports, Plans (30% design) are not included in the application and necessary permits, and their status, are only briefly mentioned. The Proposal lacks

sufficient supporting scientific and technical information. Goals and objectives of the Project and how they are consistent with the IRWM Plan are included.

Budget

Less than half the items in the Proposal have detailed cost information; many of the costs cannot be verified as reasonable and supporting documentation is lacking. A Budget summary and detailed Budget chart is provided. A description of how the local agency cost share would be met is not included. Page 3 of the budget includes a “2008/2009 Working Budget-Expenditures, Town of Truckee, Engineering” table. This table lists: car allowance, vehicle mileage, vehicle fuel, and vehicle equipment. It is unclear if these costs are factored into the 37% indirect costs attributed to the Project. As indicated in the Proposition 84 Guidelines, travel costs are not eligible as funding match or for reimbursement. The Construction/Implementation task in the Budget is lacking complete cost information. For example, the Construction/Implementation Budget section includes an “Engineering Estimate” for Reach 4 and Reach 5; however, the cost totals in these tables do not match the “Detailed Cost Estimate” amounts. Furthermore, there is no back up estimates presented for the Railroad Crossing structures and the Balloon Track and Glenshire Drive Relocation construction subtasks.

Schedule

The schedule demonstrates a readiness to begin construction more than 12 months after the anticipated award date (October 1, 2011). The Schedule shows construction beginning February 1, 2013.

Monitoring, Assessment, and Performance Measures

The criterion is marginally addressed and documentation is incomplete and insufficient. Goals and indicators for Railroad Crossing and Balloon Track components of the project are not included. Project Goal 3 states “Improve ecological value Reaches 4 and 5 of Trout Creek by creating improved aquatic habitat by project completion.” The Output Indicator states “Pre-and post-project temperature measurements.” This output indicator does not directly track Project Goal 3 of improving ecological value. A portion of the Desired Outcomes of Goal 4 includes a more natural sinuosity and variable slope of the creek channel; however, the Output and Outcome Indicators, Measurement Tools and Methods and Targets of this goal do not include any parameters to gauge success of this portion of the Desired Outcome. The project is consistent with the Basin Plan.

Economic Analysis – Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and Water Supply Benefits

Average levels of FDR and water supply benefits can be realized through this proposal; however, the quality of the analysis is partially lacking. For example, based on photographs and maps of flooded areas, information could have been presented showing the number of structures affected, the extent of transportation delays, the costs to clean up, etc. No FDR benefits are quantified. The FDR benefits are described using photographs of areas inundated after a 1997 storm. Based on inundated area, it appears that the major beneficiary of the FDR would be to Union Pacific Railroad. No estimate is provided of the number or value of structures affected.

Economic Analysis – Water Quality and Other Expected Benefits

Average levels of water quality and other benefits can be realized through this proposal, based on the quality of the analysis and supporting documentation. Water quality and other benefits are described qualitatively. They include reduced sediment load that would otherwise be moved into the Truckee River, an impaired stream. The applicant states that the restoration area would improve vegetative cover, aquatic habitat and wildlife cover, improve ecosystem diversity, and improve the aesthetic value of the channel.

Program Preferences

The Proposal includes a project that implements the following Program Preferences: Include Regional Projects or Programs, Effectively Integrate Water Management Programs and Effectively Integrate Projects within a Hydrologic Region, Expand Environmental Stewardship, and Practice Integrated Flood Management. However, the Proposal demonstrates a limited degree of certainty that the Program Preferences claimed can be achieved, and lacks thorough documentation for the breadth and magnitude of the Program Preferences to be implemented.